

CLAIMS

1 1. *(Currently amended)* A method in which search items
2 returned in response to a present user's present search request are
3 prioritized according to an algorithm which assigns greater weight
4 to interest indications by relatively similar users making relatively
5 similar search requests than to interest indications by relatively
6 dissimilar users and than to interest indications ~~making~~ made in
7 response to relatively dissimilar search requests.

1 2. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 1 comprising the
2 steps of:
3 receiving a search request from a user;
4 assigning said user to a community;
5 assigning said search request to a search query;
6 submitting said query so as to yield a set of response items; and
7 prioritizing said response items as a function of prior search
8 requests by said community.

1 3. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising
2 tracking indications of interest by said user in individual ones of
3 said response items and storing the results of said tracking on a
4 per-user and/or per-community basis.

1 4. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising
2 a step of using said results in prioritizing items collected in
3 response to subsequent search requests by other users assigned to
4 said community.

1 5. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein, all else
2 being equal, interest indications associated with a community are
3 given greater weight than other interest indications by the parent of
4 said community.

1 6. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said user
2 is assigned to a community in part as a function of said indications
3 of interest.

1 7. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a selection of said
3 community by said user.

1 8. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a profile of said user
3 existing before said search request is made.

1 9. *(Original)* A system comprising:
2 a search-request receiver for receiving a search request from a
3 user;
4 a community assigner for assigning said user to a community;
5 a search-request parser for assigning said search request to a
6 query;
7 a search engine for collecting search items in response to said
8 query; and
9 a prioritizer for prioritizing said search items as a function of
10 previous searches by said community.

1 10. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 9 further comprising
2 a tracker for tracking indications of interest by a user in search
3 items collected in response to said search request from said user,
4 said prioritizer using said indications of interest to determine said
5 function for future queries.

1 11. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said
2 community assigner assigns said user to a community for said
3 future search requests at least in part as a function of said
4 indications of interest.

1 12. *(Previously presented)* A database comprising:
2 a key field identifying hit counts;
3 a second field indicating values for respective hit counts;
4 a query context field indicating query contexts for respective hit
5 counts; and
6 a user and/or a community field indicating respective users
7 and/or communities associated with said hit counts.

1 13. *(Original)* A database as recited in Claim 12 further
2 comprising a decay field for indicating times associated with said
3 hit counts.

1 14. *(Previously presented)* A database as recited in Claim 12
2 further comprising of a periodic update system to update the
3 community record counts from the user record counts.